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MAIL CALL!

To receive NOVS news, visit www.veterans.nv.gov, select *Services for Women* and then *Join Our Mailing List*. We will never share, sell, or trade your information.

NEVADA WOMEN VETERANS NEWSLETTER - JUNE 2010

Calling all Vietnam Era Women Veterans

VA will launch a comprehensive study of women veterans who served in the military during the Vietnam War to explore the effects of their military service upon their mental and physical health. Participant registration is occurring through July 2010. Participants will be compensated. Call the participant registration line at (888) 331-3325. For more information, please visit the web site:

www.research.va.gov/programs/csp/csp579.cfm



NEVADA OFFICE OF VETERANS SERVICES



VISION

To be the premier provider of veteran services.

MISSION

We establish and define our mission as three inter-related components:

- To provide a full continuum of quality services to eligible veterans and their families.
- To provide an environment of growth and opportunity to our employees.
- To provide our community and partners the opportunity to contribute in this endeavor.

In addition, NOVS focuses outreach efforts on diverse populations of veterans, including women veterans, those residing in rural areas, veterans of the Global War on Terror, and homeless veterans.

SERVICES

NOVS is an advocate and provider of care for Nevada veterans. Serving America's heroes means understanding the stages of a veteran's life. NOVS understands those stages and provides the following core services:

- Veterans benefits assistance and advocacy.
- Skilled nursing services to veterans, their spouses, and Gold Star parents through the Nevada State Veterans Home in Boulder City.
- Memorial services through the veterans memorial cemeteries in Fernley and Boulder City.



Carole's Corner

If you weren't there you missed our most successful program ever! The 3rd Annual Nevada Women Veterans Summit was an overwhelming success. Check out the photos of the Summit in this newsletter. The Summit took place at the Las Vegas Hilton and approximately 250 female veterans, reservists, National Guard and family members attended. This year's event was cosponsored by the NOVS and the VA Southern Nevada Healthcare System. Congresswomen Shelley Berkley and Dina Titus addressed attendees, and the keynote speaker was the Honorable Tammy L. Duckworth, Assistant Secretary for DVA Public and Intergovernmental Affairs. The 4th Annual Summit will be held in northern Nevada, March 2011; join our mailing list and stay informed.

The program would not have been a success without the following sponsors:

- ★ NV Energy
- ★ Disabled American Veterans, Chapter 1
- ★ Disabled American Veterans, Chapter 12
- ★ Smith's Food and Drug Stores
- ★ American Legion Department of Nevada
- ★ Las Vegas Hilton
- ★ Let the Joy Rise, LLC
- ★ Vietnam Veterans of America, Nevada State Council

Please remember that you can contact me via the NOVS web site by selecting the *Contact Us* link on the home page, or by phone at (702) 636-3070. I look forward to hearing from you, and don't forget, Nevada Women are Veterans too...I am one of those Nevadans to proudly boast that honor.

Serving America's Heroines,

Carole L. Turner, RN, MN
NOVS Deputy Director

HAVE YOU HEARD?

News for Retired Personnel

The *Afterburner* is authorized by the Air Force instruction 36-106. When funding permits, it is printed three times a year by Air Force Retiree Services.

Distribution:

- ◆ Individuals entitled to Air Force retired pay.
- ◆ Unremarried surviving spouses of retirees (automatically if they are entitled to an annuity under Survivor Benefit Plan and/or the Retired Serviceman's Family Protection Plan, or the Reserve Component Service Benefit Plan).
- ◆ Unremarried non-annuitant surviving spouses of deceased Air Force members who were entitled to receive retired pay.

The *Afterburner* is not sent to former spouses nor to retirees of other services.

Eligible recipients may receive the *Afterburner* by requesting it from the address below:

AFPC/DPSIAR
550 C Street W, Suite 8
Randolph AFB, TX 78150

You may call 210-565-2126 or e-mail them at afpc.retiree@randolph.af.mil. The *Afterburner* is also available online at www.retirees.af.mil.

Presumption of Herbicide Exposure

A veteran who, during active military, naval, or air service, served in the Republic of Vietnam during the period beginning January 9, 1962, and ending May 7, 1975, will be presumed to have been exposed to an herbicide agent during such service, unless there is affirmative evidence that establishes that the veteran was not exposed to any such herbicide agent. See 38 U.S.C.A. § 1161(f) (West 2002); 38 C.F.R. § 3.307(a) (6) (iii) (2008). (Note: the dates of service in Vietnam for the purposes of presumed exposure are not the same as the statutory definition of the "Vietnam Era" in 38 U.S.C.A. § 101(29).)

Health Care Bill Will Have NO Impact on TRICARE for Retired Military Personnel

People who have veteran or military health benefits will not have to get other insurance or pay a penalty under the new health care plan. Leaders of the Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs have denied rumors that the overhaul would hurt families who get their health benefits from the military's TRICARE programs. "Fears that veterans health care will be undermined by the health reform legislation are unfounded," VA Secretary Eric Shenseki wrote in a letter. The House even passed unanimously a bill (HR 4887) that House Armed Services Committee Chair Ike Skelton (D-MO) said makes it "perfectly clear" that TRICARE meets the insurance requirements set by the health plan. The Senate is expected to take similar steps.

SEEN & HEARD AT THE 2010 WOMEN VETERANS SUMMIT



PRESIDENT OBAMA SIGNS HEALTH SERVICES ACT

Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2010

Pub. L. 111-163, Title II - Women Veterans Health Care Matters

Bill Highlights

Section 201 mandates a study of barriers for women veterans to health care from the Department of Veterans Affairs by a qualified independent entity or organization. Four million dollars was appropriated to carry out this section.

Section 202 mandates the VA to carry out a program to provide graduate medical education, training, certification, and continuing medical education for mental health professionals who provide counseling, care, and services to veterans suffering from sexual trauma and post-traumatic stress.

Each of the VAs shall submit to Congress an annual report on the counseling, care, and services provided to veterans pursuant to this section containing:

- ◆ Number of mental health professionals, graduate medical education trainees, and primary care providers who have been certified under the program and the amount and nature of continuing medical education provided to such professionals, trainees, and providers who are certified.
- ◆ Number of women veterans who received counseling and care and services from professionals and providers who received training.
- ◆ Number of graduate medical education, training, certification, and continuing medical education courses provided.
- ◆ Number of trained full-time equivalent employees required in each facility of the Department to meet the needs of veterans requiring treatment and care for sexual trauma and post-traumatic stress.
- ◆ Recommendations for improvement in the treatment of women veterans with sexual trauma and post-traumatic stress.

Section 203 mandates a pilot program through the Readjustment Counseling Service (Vet Center) of the Veterans Health Administration to evaluate the feasibility and advisability of providing reintegration and readjustment services in group retreat settings to women veterans who are recently separated from service in the Armed Forces after a prolonged deployment. Two million dollars was appropriated for each of fiscal years 2010 and 2011, for a total of four million dollars.

Section 204 mandates appointment of women recently separated from service in the Armed Forces on certain VA Advisory Committees.

Section 205 mandates the implementation of pilot programs, in no fewer than three Veterans Integrated Service Networks (VISNs), to assess the feasibility and advisability of providing assistance to qualified veterans to

obtain child care so that such veterans can receive health care services.

Section 206 mandates the provision of health care services to a newborn child of a woman veteran who is receiving maternity care furnished by the VA for not more than seven days after the birth of the child if the veteran delivered the child in a facility of the Department or another facility pursuant to a Department contract for services relating to such delivery.

To read the entire bill text, go to <http://thomas.loc.gov>, click on **Bill Number**, enter **S 1963**, then click **Search**.

Of Interest to You

DVA Veterans Health Administration, Office of Mental Health Services (OMHS) improved their web site so that more information will be available to veterans and others outside of VA. This is in contrast to sites such as the MST Resource Homepage, which is available on the VA intranet and accessible only to individuals with access to VA and Vet Center computers. The new MST section of the OMHS internet site is now live, so please visit <http://www.mentalhealth.va.gov> when you get a chance. Scroll down to the bottom of the page to see the MST section.

One thing to particularly check out when you visit the site is the feature article in the middle of the page; it's an article describing two veterans' stories of recovering from experiences of MST. The OMHS hopes the information will reach veterans who haven't yet spoken up about their experiences or who have been reluctant to seek out care from the VA.

Veterans, family members and service providers can now use the National Call Center for Homeless Veterans to find help and resources. Call 877-4AIDVET (877-424-3838) to speak to trained VA staff 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The U.S. Departments of Defense, Labor, and Veterans Affairs recently introduced the redesigned and enhanced National Resource Directory (NRD) website, www.nationalresourcedirectory.gov, an online partnership for wounded, ill and injured service members, veterans, their families and those who support them. Contact the National Resource Center toll free at 800-342-9547.

VA FORUM TO FOCUS ON WOMEN VETERANS

Women Veterans: An Education and Empowerment Forum Will Support and Strengthen Growing Women Veterans' Community

The Department of Veterans Affairs will invite women veterans and their advocates to a forum in July to discuss the quality of VA health care, the provision of benefits for women, and ways to improve access to the care and benefits for women veterans.

"This forum will continue our identification of how best to serve this growing population of veterans through our quality health care, benefits for service-connected disabilities, mental health services, or supporting their community," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Eric K. Shinseki. "We must constantly reevaluate and solicit input on our performance as measured against the needs of our women veterans." This forum will build on the momentum from the 2008 quadrennial National Summit on Women Veterans' Issues and expand the dialogue necessary to enhance the VA's benefits and services available to women veterans. The one-day forum will not only help VA learn more from women veterans who depend on VA for care, but will also develop tool kits for strengthening women veteran networks through work with local VA facilities.

VA has undertaken major initiatives to transform the department to meet the unique health care needs of women veterans and provide the best quality care at every VA medical center. In addition, the Agency is working to shorten the delays for claims processing, improve access to VA health services for minority and rural veterans, end veteran homelessness, and ease the transition back to civilian life.

Health care improvements include comprehensive primary care and specialized medical care at every VA medical center, enhanced mental health care specifically for women veterans, staffing every VA medical center with a Women Veterans Program Manager, a mini-residency on

women's health for primary care physicians, and a multi-faceted research program on women's health.

The Department's 2011 budget provides \$217.6 million to meet the gender-specific health care needs of women veterans, an increase of \$18.6 million (more than nine percent) over the 2010 level. VA's 2011 budget proposal will enable the establishment of a peer call center and social networking site for women combat veterans. This call center would be open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

There are about 1.8 million women veterans among the nation's total of 23 million living veterans. VA estimates women veterans will comprise 10.5 percent of the veteran populations by 2020.

Nevada WWII Female Aviators Honored with Congressional Gold Medal

Congresswoman Shelley Berkley honored three Nevada women for their role as Women Air Force Service Pilots (WASPs) in America's military efforts during World War II. As members of WASP, Madge Moore of Las Vegas, Julia Bartlett of Reno, and Dorothy Eby of Gardnerville received the Congressional Gold Medal at the March 10 ceremony at the U.S. Capitol. They, along with other women of the WASP program, flew supply planes to U.S. forces and other war efforts during World War II. The WASP was established during WWII with the primary focus of flying noncombat missions in the United States, freeing their male counterparts for combat missions overseas. They were the first women ever to fly American military aircraft and they flew almost every type of aircraft operated by the Army Air Force during the war, logging more than 60 million miles.

Did you know?

As a woman veteran, you may be eligible to receive gender-specific services, including pap smears, mammograms, prenatal, and childcare. To access these services, apply for VA health care by completing VA Form 10-10EZ. Obtain the form one of the following ways: visit, call or write any VA health care facility or veteran's benefits office and ask for the Women Veterans Program Manager; call toll free 877-222-VETS (8387); or access the form at www.va.gov.

The VA Southern Nevada Healthcare System Women Veterans Program Manager, Nancy Faye, LCSW, is located at the VA Central Clinic / Delta Point at 901 Rancho Drive in Las Vegas. You can contact Nancy at (702) 636-3000 ext. 6106.



UPCOMING EVENTS



**Southern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery
Advisory Committee Meeting**
August 10, 2010 10:00 a.m.
SNVMC Maintenance Building
1900 Buchanan Boulevard, Boulder City



Veterans Services Commission Meeting
June 23, 2010 9:00 a.m.

Grant Sawyer Building, Governor's Conference Room
555 East Washington Avenue (At Las Vegas Boulevard North)



Wreaths Across America
December 11, 2010 9:00 a.m.
Boulder City and Fernley Veterans Memorial Cemeteries



NOVS Legislative Summit
January 8, 2011 - Reno

The purpose of the Summit is to use the information gathered earlier this year at the Legislative Symposium to finalize the 2011 legislative agenda. This will be followed later in the year by a Veterans' Day at the Legislature during the session.



4th Annual Nevada Women Veterans Summit
March 2011 - Northern Nevada

*Find more information about these events as it becomes available at
www.veterans.nv.gov*

Gold Star Family License Plates Now Available



Last year Governor Jim Gibbons signed into law the bill introduced by former State Senator Joe Heck that created the Gold Star Family license plate. The governor presented the first plates to Gold Star families on November 10, 2009. The plate is now available to immediate family members of those killed in the line of duty while on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States. The initial cost for the plate is one dollar and there is no annual fee. The application for the plate is available at www.dmvnv.com/platesveterans.htm



Share Your Thoughts

Nevada Office of Veterans Services - Services for Women

Help us help you better understand your status and the benefits for which you are eligible by taking a brief online survey. Visit www.veterans.nv.gov, select *Services for Women*, and then *Take our Survey*. We value your feedback, and taking our survey is the quickest and easiest way to share your thoughts.



NEVADA OFFICE OF VETERANS SERVICES

Toll Free 866-630-VETS (8387)
www.veterans.nv.gov

LOCATIONS

Reno Office

5460 Reno Corporate Drive
Reno, NV 89511
(775) 688-1653

Las Vegas Office

950 West Owens Avenue, Room III
Las Vegas, NV 89106
(702) 636-3070

Satellite Office

4800 Alpine, 2nd Floor
Las Vegas, NV 89107

Elko County Office

155 South 9th Street
Elko, NV 89801
(775) 777-1000

Churchill County Office

485 West B Street, Suite 103
Fallon, NV 89406
(775) 428-1177

Southern Nevada

Veterans Memorial Cemetery
1900 Buchanan Boulevard
Boulder City, NV 89005
(702) 486-5920

Northern Nevada

Veterans Memorial Cemetery
P.O. Box 1919
Fernley, NV 89408
(775) 575-4441

Nevada State Veterans Home

100 Veterans Memorial Drive
Boulder City, NV 89005
(702) 332-6784